

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 01612 171241Z

53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 SY-10

RSR-01 /095 W

----- 105804

R 171200Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6824

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 1612

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SU

SUBJ: BSO TRIAL - STATUS REPORT

REF: (A) KHARTOUM 1575; (B) KHARTOUM 1569 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. LATEST LOCAL PRESS REPORTS TEND SUPPORT VIEW THERE IS CONFLICT BETWEEN PROSECUTION AND SUDAN DEFENSE COMMITTEE AS TO PROPER TIMING OF MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY FOR BSO MURDERERS. REMAINS BE SEEN IF PROSECUTION WILL ANNOUNCE DATE, PERHAPS WITHIN WEEK, DESPITE DELAYING DEFENSE TACTICS. IN MEANTIME, PALESTINIAN EFFORTS PUT USG IN MIDDLE POINT OUT AGAINT NEED FOR USG PRUDENCE IN ANY ACTIONS OR STATEMENTS CONCERNING CASE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS JULY 16 CARRIED BRIEF ITEM IN WHICH MIRGHANI AL-NASRI, HEAD 22-MEMBER SUDAN DEFENSE COMMITTEE  
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PAGE 02 KHARTO 01612 171241Z

(SDC), REPORTED SDC HAS SUB-DIVIDED INTO SEVERAL SUB-

COMMITTEES TO STUDY VARIOUS ASPECTS OF CASE. AL-NASRI NOTED CASE FIRST OF KIND IN SUDAN AND HENCE WITHOUT PRECEDENT. EXTENSIVE STUDY AND RESEARCH THEREFORE REQUIRED AND WOULD TAKE TIME.

3. JULY 17 DAILY "AL AYAM" (WITHOUT QUOTING SOURCE) STATES IT UNDERSTANDS ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE FOR START MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY WILL BE MADE WITHIN WEEK. INITIAL INQUIRY WILL BE RESTRICTED TO EIGHT TERRORISTS (PRESUMABLY MURDERERS). SEVENTEEN PROSECUTION WITNESSES (INCLUDING TWO SENIOR GOS OFFICIALS AND TWO ARAB DIPLOMATS) WILL BE CALLED. PROCEEDINGS TO TAKE PLACE IN PEOPLE'S HALL (OLD PARLIAMENT BUILDING WHICH IS BIGGEST HALL IN KHARTOUM AND TUS SUGGESTS PRESS AND/OR PUBLIC ATTENDANCE WILL BE PERMITTED).

4. COMMENT: STORIES REFLECT POSSIBILITY FURTHER SLIPPAGE IN TIMING FROM THOSE EXPECTED LAST WEEK (REF A) BUT ARE NOTABLE FOR AT LEAST HINTING AT CONFLICT BETWEEN PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE OVER TIMING OF INQUIRY. REMAINS BE SEEN WHETHER, IF FACED WITH CONTINUING DEFENSE STALL TACTICS, PROSECUTOR CARRIES OUT THREAT (REF B) TO SET DATE FOR INQUIRY WITHOUT AGREEMENT OF SDC.

5. EMBASSY HAS NOTED FBIS REPORT OF CAIRO VOICE OF PALESTINE BROADCAST JULY 15 NOT ONLY CONFIRMING SPLIT BETWEEN PROSECUTOR AND DEFENSE BUT SEEKING PUT USG SQUARELY IN MIDDLE BY STATING WE EXERTING GREAT PRESSURE ON GOS FOR EARLY TRIAL. SUCH CHARGES, OF COURSE, TOTALLY FALSE, BUT RAISE AGAIN NEED FOR USG (AND EMBASSY) PRUDENCE IN ANY STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS CONCERNING CASE. FRITTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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